

MEDIA RELEASE

LOCAL ROCK

Council's preference is always to use local products and businesses where available. Presently Council has not been able to locate enough local rock for the airport project, nor for any planned local roads repair program.

In order to address the issue of the lack of available local rock, Council resolved at the Extraordinary meeting held on 7 December to recommend to the Commonwealth Minister that the proposed extraction of rock from land in Youngs Road be declared Significant Development, which would recognise the high priority to progress this project. It is believed that this quarry would be able to provide around 17,500 tons of rock for local use.

This is the first step in the process to establish an extractive industry at Youngs Road. The next step, subsequent to the Minister making a declaration that the Youngs Road project is Significant Development, is for Council to conduct an Environmental Impacts Assessment on the project and then seek development approval for the project. Council will need to use a third party for the assessment of the Development Application as it cannot assess its own application; and an independent recommendation on the DA would be made to the Minister.

Community engagement, including public exhibition of the DA and EIS and invitation for submissions, is also a requirement under the Significant Development Application process. It is anticipated that, given the requirements for environmental assessment and the DA process, it will take 12 to 18 months before rock could be quarried; however, it could potentially be sooner pending initial project development and assessments.

For further information on this Application for Declaration as Significant Development – the Documentation can be found on Council web-site in the agenda for the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 7 December 2018: www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/council-meetings-2018.

We urge the community to please understand that unless Council can secure local rock for the airport runway, the rock will have to be imported (under strict biosecurity) due to the requirement of the runway pavement to be resealed to ensure that aircrafts can safely land and take-off.

Council is still hopeful that a local solution will be found. It is estimated that 30,000 tons of rock is needed for the airport-reseal project.

Lotta Jackson
GENERAL MANAGER

21 December 2018